TL 0975

Bundeskanzler
Helmut Kohl
Adenauerallee 139

W-5300 Bonn

February 24, 1993

Dear Mr. Chancellor,

we are writing to express our concern about reports we have received regarding the intended sale of 39 most modern NVA warships (from the former East German Navy) to Indonesia.

We wish to remind you that Indonesia has illegally occupied East Timor, in defiance of numerous UN resolutions since 1975, and has waged a continuing war against the local population.

During this time up to 200.000 people have lost their lives and human rights abuses cause continuing and serious concern.

The deal was reported postponed following the Santa Cruz massacre, when at least 273 people were murdered by the Indonesian military.

Since then the situation of human rights has not been improved and the repression inside East Timor is said to be as bad as in the late 1970s.

The Federal Republic of Germany, like the UN, has never recognised the Indonesian annexation, and claims that it does not sell weapons to countries at war. Because of the aforesaid, Germany is in breach of its undertaking.

We strongly condemn this deal!

Furthermore, we note that the vessels under negotiation may be sold at prices significantly below their actual value. According to press all 39 vessels are said to be sold for an amount of US$ 150 Million only, whereas only one corvette values US$ 200 Million actually. This can only be regarded as covert military aid to a repressive regime.

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We call upon you to investigate this matter and look forward to your early reply.

Yours faithfully,

a paz es possivel em Timor Leste, Portugal
Agir pour Timor, France
Aksi Setiakawan
Association Timor-Ortiental, France
British Coalition for East Timor, United Kingdom
CDPM (Comissão para os Direitos do Povo Maubere), Portugal
Coordinamento Italiano dei Gruppi di Solidarieta con il Populi Timorese, Italy
East Timor Action Network, U.S.A.
East Timor Alert Network, Canada
East Timor Group Holland, The Netherlands
East Timor Solidarity Campain, Ireland
Free East Timor Japan Coalition, Japan
Free Papua Movement
Front Demokrasi Indonesia, Indonesia
IMBAS (Initiative für die Menschenrechte aller BürgerInnen der ASEAN-Staaten), Germany
Indonesian Resources Information Project, The Netherlands
International Platform of Jurists for East Timor
Japanese Supporting Committee for Darwin East Timor School, Japan
Komitee Indonesië, The Netherlands
Oporto University, Portugal
Osttimor Kommitten, Sweden
Paz e Justicia para Timor Leste, Portugal
SOS Timor, Belgium
Tapol, United Kingdom
Timor Oriental a.s.b.l., Luxembourg
XminY Founding Agency, The Netherlands

P.S.: Please send your reply to: IMBAS, Postfach 60 04 22, W-6000 Frankfurt am Main 60
Remark for the Solidarity Groups only: Letters with the same wording have also been sent to Dr. Klaus Kinkel, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Volker Rühe, Minister for Defence. We would very much appreciate if you could direct your protest against the deal also at the German Embassy in your country.